

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL PRIORITY PROJECT LIST

NARRATIVE PROJECT INFORMATION - October 2011

Due to Peter Heffernan (peter.heffernan@kingcounty.gov) no later than close of business Wednesday October 12.

Project Sponsor: *Tukwila/Renton*

Project Name: *SW 27th/Strander Blvd Connection*

Project Location: *East Valley Highway to West Valley Highway*

What type of project is it: Support Centers ____ Corridors Serving Centers X

Plan Consistency:

- Transportation 2040 project number: 4163
- Is the project consistent with the Transportation 2040: Yes X No ____

Project Description - No more than two full page - (see evaluation criteria for information to include):

- Briefly describe the project – See Comments Below
- What is the intended outcome & benefit – See Comments Below

Project Status & Timeline

Where is the project at in development? Phase I is complete. Phase II is going to construction.

What is the timeline for this project from start to completion?

Phase I complete

Phase II Going to Construction

Phase III Design 2012/13 ROW 2014 Construction 2015/16

Additional Comments

The complete project will construct a grade-separated 4-lane roadway under the UPRR and BNSF railroad tracks connecting Strander Blvd in Tukwila to SW 27th St in Renton. The project will provide a major east-west (railroad grade-separated) connection between the Renton and Tukwila Urban Centers/Employment Areas that will

significantly improve access and circulation in the area by relieving congestion on I-405, S 180th St and S Grady Way.

Renton's Comprehensive Plan anticipates broadening the City's economic and employment base by expanding commercial, office, manufacturing and industrial development in the Renton Valley. This project will create a continuous arterial connection in the Renton Valley that will improve travel to and from the planned (as well as existing) development for a wide range of travel modes. The SW 27th St/Strander Blvd Extension project bisects property owned by The Boeing Company, which is the largest employer in the region. The Boeing Company currently has an adopted EIS for the site that would allow them to build an additional 2.5 million square feet of commercial office space to the existing 1.1 millions square feet of office space. Other commercial businesses within the project area include Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regional headquarters, IKEA, Alliance Packaging, etc.

The SW 27th St/Strander Blvd Extension project will provide a connection to the regional high-capacity transit and commuter rail system by providing direct access to the Sounder Station. Improved access to this commuter rail station will encourage transit use and help relieve traffic congestion in the region. Improved access would result in shorter commute times for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) users, and help keep the use of alternative modes of transportation high. The project also promotes non-motorized transportation by providing connectivity between two regional trails: the Interurban Trail (in Tukwila) and the Springbrook Trail (in Renton), therefore improving the mobility of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Freight movement in and out of the Green River Valley is crucial to the regional economy. The warehouse and distribution centers in the Valley house hundreds of millions of dollars worth of goods that flow out of, or are destined for, regional and international businesses via the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. The SW 27th St/Strander Blvd Extension will provide a missing link to east-west travel, reducing travel time and improving freight movement throughout Puget Sound and the region.

The project will improve access to and from the Renton's Urban Center and Tukwila's Urban Center, to and from Kent Employment Area, to the expanding Boeing Company at Longacres site. It will also provide access for the new transit Rapid Line F improving travel time and reliability between Transit Centers.